

**LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

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SUBJECT: ASTM 15.10 meeting on safety standards for portable fuel containers.

DATE OF MEETING: August 21, 2008

PLACE OF MEETING: Bethesda Towers, Room 715

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Murphy, ESME

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: **John Murphy, ESME**
 John Boja, CRC
 Marilyn Martin, CRC
 Patty Pollitzer, OGC
 Kate Sedney, ESHF

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: **John A. Blair, ASTM**
 Harold Cunningham, The Plastics Group
 John Ferguson, Scepter Corp
 Phil Moncton, Scepter Corp
 Lori C. Hasselbring, Stress Engineering Services
 Grant Kernan, Blitz USA
 John S. Lips, L&W Innovations LLC
 Roland A. Riegel, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
 Mark O. Pierce, No Spill Research Inc.
 John Trippi, Midwest Can Co.
 Richard A. Ward, Perritt Laboratories Inc.
 Mishi Ebrahim, Dan Rather Reports
 Kevin Shavahan, ASTM

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The meeting convened at 10:00 AM. John Blair opened the meeting. The agenda for this meeting (attached) and the minutes of the past meeting were accepted by the subcommittee. John Blair asked for a volunteer to serve as subcommittee chairman. Phil Moncton from the Scepter Corporation volunteered to serve as chairman.

Review of Standards

The subcommittee discussed the status of three newly revised standards. The standards are F852-08 the standard Specification for Portable Gasoline Containers for Consumer Use, F976-08 the Standard Specification for Portable Kerosene and Diesel

Containers for Consumer Use, and F2234-08 the standard Specification for Spill Resistant Fueling Systems for Portable Fuel Containers for Consumer Use.

Two standards remained unchanged. These two standards are the F839 Standard Specification for Cautionary Labeling of Portable Gasoline Containers for Consumer Use and the F926 Standard Specification for Cautionary Labeling of Portable Kerosine and Diesel Containers for Consumer Use.

The F 2517 Standard Specification for Determination of Child Resistance of Portable Fuel Containers for Consumer Use received some negative votes. The subcommittee must respond to the comments so that the standard can be re-balloted.

Federal and State Regulations

Federal and state regulations that apply to portable gasoline containers were discussed by the subcommittee.

The "Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act" was discussed in detail. This Act will require that each portable gasoline container manufactured on or after January 17, 2009 shall conform to the child-resistance requirements for closures on portable gasoline containers specified in the ASTM F2517-05 standard. The ASTM F2517-05 standard will become a product safety rule enforced by the CPSC.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has new requirements for gasoline containers that will limit the release of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) into the atmosphere. These new requirements may make the F2234 standard obsolete and may create conflicts with the F852 standard.

The state of California now requires that all gasoline containers sold in the state of California must conform to the ASTM F2517 rule. This requirement is enforced by the California State Fire Marshalls Office. Several gasoline container manufacturers indicated that California does not require the senior adult testing specified in the 2517 standard. The CPSC staff indicated that the senior adult testing is an important aspect of child resistant closures on gasoline containers. The senior adult tests are included in the standard to ensure that adults are able to open the gasoline container. If an adult can not open a particular design of gasoline can closure quickly then the CPSC staff believes that the adult will disable the child resistant features in real life. This would result in the loss of the child resistant features for the remaining life of the gasoline container. Removing the senior testing from the standard reduces the effectiveness of the standard considerably.

Several gasoline container manufacturers indicated that bringing a new design of gasoline container closure to market requires testing to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) requirements, EPA requirements, and CPSC child resistant closures (ASTM 2517) requirements.

Flame Arrestors

Two task groups have been created to develop requirements for flame arrestors in gasoline containers. The requirements could be included in future editions of the F-852 standard. A flame arrestor is a device that prevents combustion inside the gasoline container. It usually consists of a fine metal mesh that is located on any openings on the container.

Lori Hasselbring presented a report for her task group which is reviewing injury data, materials of construction, meshes, and durability.

Grant Kernan presented a report for the other task group which is arranging for testing of flame arresters. The testing would like to determine:

1. Is it possible for a flame to propagate inside a gasoline container?
2. What conditions will cause a flame to propagate inside a gasoline container?
3. What other mitigating devices are there?
4. Are there any unintended consequences that might be created from using flame arresters?

There are three test laboratories that have responded to the request for proposals. One of the three will be selected by September 30, 2008.

Portable Emergency Gas Containers (PEGC)

The subcommittee reviewed a new standard for portable emergency gasoline containers. These containers are intended to be stored in an automobile until they are needed. Then they can be carried by hand to transport gasoline from distribution points to stranded motor vehicles. They are designed and intended for one time use and then are to be discarded.

A task group was created to develop possible performance requirements for PEGCs. The task group consists of Grant Kernan, Roland Reigel, John Murphy, and John Lips. The task group will prepare a report which is expected prior to October 21, 2008.

F2517 Resolution of Negative Votes

The F 2517 Standard Specification for Determination of Child Resistance of Portable Fuel Containers for Consumer Use received some negative votes. The subcommittee worked to resolve the comments. The standard will be re-balloted sometime in the near future.

The CPSC staff repeated that the mouthing instructions need to be included in the standard. The staff believes it is likely that children will use their mouth to open

gasoline containers. As a result, the mouthing instruction must be given to the test participants during the child resistance testing. The CPSC staff also indicated that containers that can not be opened in one test should not be reused in subsequent tests.

Future meetings will be scheduled as needed. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.

F15.10 Portable Fuel Containers
CPSC Headquarters - Bethesda, MD
August 21, 2008
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

AGENDA

- Opening
- Self-Introductions
- Approval of Agenda / Minutes
- Status Review of Standards
 - F839-83(2006)
 - F852-08
 - F926-02(2007)
 - F976-08
 - F2234-08
 - F2517-05
- Federal / State Regulations
 - CPSC
 - EPA
 - States
- Flash Arrestors
 - TG 1 Reports (Lori Hasselbring)
 - TG 2 Reports (Phil Monckton)
- Portable Emergency Gas Containers (PEGC)
- F2517 Child Resistant
 - Add Kerosene and Diesel
 - Oil / Mixtures
 - Alternative Fuels
 - Dual Compartments
 - Torque Values
 - Use of Teeth
 - New Containers for Adults
 - Reuse for Children
 - Consent Form
 - Closure Types
 - Test Temperature
- Other Business
- Adjournment